

FOREIGN NEWS.

The news from Europe, received by mail on the 11th inst., was not very important. The dates were to December 7th. From our New York exchanges, we have selected the following items:

ENGLAND.

Parliament was to meet on the 5th of February, and the reform bill had not yet been discussed by the cabinet.

A deputation, including two members of parliament, had been appointed to convey an invitation to Garibaldi to visit England.

The *Times* publishes full details of the expedition of the Bull Dog and Fox for ascertaining the feasibility of the projected North Atlantic telegraph. The results are pronounced highly satisfactory and encouraging. The same paper has an editorial on the political split in the United States, and expresses the hope that the quarrel may give way to a calm in which the real difficulties of the slavery question may be met and quietly answered.

The Empress Eugenie arrived at Manchester at midnight of Thursday, Nov. 29, from Slogan, and was received with great enthusiasm. She paid a brief visit to Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle on the 4th. The visit only lasted two hours. While at the station, on her way to Perth, the Empress had her attention drawn to a soldier in extreme ill-health, but bearing upon his person several decorations for actual service. Prompted by sympathy for his infirmity, she gave him a small donation, when one of the attendants, with more officiousness than good taste, reminded her Majesty that she had befriended a man who had fought at Waterloo. "Then he is the more deserving," replied the Empress, "for he contended with a brave enemy."

The extraordinary and long protracted case of Shelden versus Shelden was terminated in the Court of Probate, on the 27th ult., by the dismissal of the petition of Mr. and Mrs. Shelden, the evidence showing that Mr. Shelden was not legally married in New York to his reputed wife until the marriage was celebrated on his death bed. The Judge expressed great sympathy for Miss Shelden when delivering sentence.

FRANCE.

Marshal Vaillant had been created minister of the emperor's household.

It was stated that no one was aware of the emperor's purpose respecting the decree relative to the constitution till he revealed the document to his astonished ministers in council, where it met with some opposition.

Count Persigny had presented letters of recall to the English court, and returned to Paris.

The emperor had granted permission to the Baltimore battalion to visit Paris, fully accoutered, next spring.

It was rumored that Prince De la Tour d'Auvergne, French ambassador at Berlin, will shortly replace M. Thouvenel in the foreign ministry.

The legislative concessions just granted were being generally canvassed by the press. The liberal journals regarded them favorably.

Reports had been current that the meeting of the corps legislatif was to be hastened, but the *Pays* says the meeting will not take place before the usual time. The senate, however, will meet earlier in order to regulate the execution of the recent imperial decree.

The French troops in Syria were taking up winter quarters.

ITALY.

The Count of Syracuse died suddenly at Siza on the 4th, of apoplexy.

The consulta generale had opened at Naples.

The government explanations to the consulta produced a good impression.

Peirio was elected vice-president of the consulta, after having refused the post of minister without a portfolio.

The siege of Gaeta continued, but it was reported that the fire of the besiegers had slackened. Provisions were getting scarce in the fortress.

Victor Emanuel continued at Palermo, where he was received with great enthusiasm.

There were rumors of insurrectionary movements in Abruzzi.

Unimportant demonstrations in Naples and elsewhere were put down.

It was reported that Napoleon had intimated to Francis II the inutilty of further resistance.

There were vague rumors that Cardinal Antonelli had resigned.

AUSTRIA.

Serious disturbances, with loss of life, are reported at Debreczin and Epererres, Hungary, 26th.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* states that no government has made any overtures to Austria respecting the cession or purchase of Venetia.

Gen. Benedek had inspected the Austrian fortresses of the Venetian quadrilateral.

He had also assembled the officers at Venice, and told them to prepare for the eventualities of an energetic defence.

Bishop Clark, in his sermon at Providence, R. I., on Sunday morning, on the state of the country, after portraying the extravagance of both Northern and Southern fanatics, said—"If such counsels rule, our case is hopeless. Let those who have a real interest in the preservation of harmony and peace rise and take these matters out of the control of men who get their living by agitation."

SINGULAR VISIONS.

It is constantly urged, among other objections to the credibility of supernatural apparitions, that the names of the witnesses have singularly and mysteriously disappeared—that you find them, upon investigation, substantiated thus: A very worthy gentleman told another very worthy gentleman, who told a very intelligent lady, who told somebody else, who told the individual, who finally communicated the incident to the world. There are, however, as just intimated, instances, in which such ambiguity is altogether wanting.—Among these is one so well authenticated by well known witnesses of undoubted veracity, that having never before been published, I venture to relate it here.

My informant was Professor Tholuck, of Halle University, the most eminent living theologian in Germany, and the principal ecclesiastical of the Prussian church. He prefaced the account by assuring me that it was received from the lips of DeWette himself, immediately after the occurrence—that DeWette was an intimate personal friend, a plain, practical man, of remarkably clear and vigorous intellect, with no more poetry and imagination in his nature, than is just sufficient to keep him alive—in a word, that he would rely upon his coolness of judgment and accuracy of observation, under any possible combination of circumstances, as confidently as upon those of any man in the world.

Dr. DeWette, the famous German Biblical critic, returning home one evening, between nine and ten o'clock, was surprised, upon arriving at the house in which he resided, to see a bright light burning in his study. In fact, he was rather more than surprised; for he distinctly remembered to have extinguished the candles when he went out, an hour or two previously, locked the door, and put the key in his pocket, which, upon feeling for it, was still there. Pausing a moment to ascertain by what means and for what purpose any one could have entered the room, he perceived the shadow of a person apparently occupied about something in a remote corner. Supposing it to be a burglar employed in rifling his trunk, he was on the point of alarming the police, when the man advanced to the window, into full view, as if for the purpose of looking into the street. It was Dr. DeWette himself!—the scholar, author, professor—his height, size, figure, stoop—his head, his face, his features, eyes, mouth, nose, chin, every one—skull cap, study gown, neck tie, all, everything; there was no mistaking him—no deception whatever; there stood Dr. DeWette in his own library, and he out on the street; why, he must be somebody else! The doctor instinctively grasped his body with his hands, and tried himself with the psychological tests of self-consciousness and identity, doubtful if he could believe his senses, and black was not white, that he no longer existed his former self, and stood perplexed, bewildered and confounded, gazing at his other likeness, looking out of the window. Upon the person's retiring from the window, which occurred in a few moments, DeWette resolved not to dispute the possession of his study with the other doctor, before morning, and, ringing at the door of a house opposite, where an acquaintance resided, he asked permission to remain overnight.

The chamber occupied by him, commanded a full view of the interior of his library, and from the window he could see his other self engaged in study and meditation, now walking up and down the room, immersed in thought, now sitting down at his desk to write, now rising to search for a volume among the book shelves, and imitating in all respects the peculiar habits of the great doctor, engaged at work and with cogitations. At length, when the cathedral clock had finished striking first four and then eleven strokes, as German clocks are wont to do an hour before twelve, DeWette, number two, manifested signs of retiring to rest—took out his watch, the identical large gold one the other doctor in the other chamber, felt sure was at that moment safe in his waistcoat pocket, and wound it up, removed a portion of his clothing, came to the window, closed the curtains, and in a few minutes the light disappeared. DeWette, number one, waiting a little till convinced that number two had disposed himself to sleep, retired also himself to bed, wondering very much what all this could mean.

Rising the next morning, he crossed the street and passed up stairs to his library.—The door was fastened; he applied the key, opened it, and entered. No one was there; everything appeared in precisely the same condition in which he had left it in the evening before—his pen lying upon the paper as he dropped it on going out, the candles on the tables and mantelpiece evidently not having been lighted, the window curtains drawn aside as he had left them; in fine, there was not a single trace of any person having been in the room. "Had he been insane the night before? He must have been. He was growing old; something was the matter with his eyes or brain; any how, he had been deceived, and it was very foolish of him have remained away all night." Endeavoring to satisfy his mind with some such reflections as those, he remembered he had not yet examined his bedroom.—Almost ashamed to make the search, now convinced it was all an hallucination of the senses, he crossed the narrow passage way and opened the door. He was thunderstruck.—The ceiling, a lofty, massive brick arch, had fallen during the night, filling the room with rubbish and crushing his bed into atoms. DeWette, the apparition, had saved the life of the great German scholar.

Tholuck, who was walking with me in the fields near Halle when relating the anecdote,

added, upon concluding, "I do not pretend to account for the phenomenon; no knowledge scientific or metaphysical is adequate to explain it; but I have no more doubt of it actually, positively, literally did occur, than I have of the existence of sun in *Himmel du*."—Atlantic Monthly.

[From Robert Dale Owen's "Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World."

A Glasgow Teller's Dream.

One of the most remarkable examples given by Abercrombie, who states that it occurred to a particular friend of his, and that it "may be relied upon in its most minute particulars." It is in these words:

"The gentleman was at the time connected with one of the principal banks in Glasgow, and was at his place at the teller's table, where money is paid when a person entered, demanding payment of a sum of six pounds.

"There were several persons waiting, who were in turn entitled to be served before him; but he was extremely impatient and rather noisy, and, being besides a remarkable stammerer, he became so annoying, that another gentleman requested my friend to pay him his money, and get rid of him. He did so, accordingly, but with an expression of impatience at being obliged to attend to him before his turn; and he thought no more of the transaction. At the end of the year, which was eight or nine months after, the books of the bank could not be made to balance, the deficiency being exactly six pounds. Several days and nights had been spent in endeavoring to discover the error, but without success; when, at last, my friend returned, one much fatigued, and went to bed. He dreamed of being at his place in the bank, and the whole transaction with the stammerer, as now detailed, passed before him, in all its particulars. He awoke, under a full impression that the dream was to lead him to the discovery of what he was so anxiously in search of; and, on investigation, he soon discovered that the sum paid to this person in the number now mentioned, had been neglected to be inserted in the book of interests, and that it exactly accounted for the error in the balance."

Commenting on this case, Abercrombie says: "The fact upon which the importance of the case rested was not his having paid the money, but having neglected to insert the payment. Now, of this, there was no impression made upon his mind at the time, and we can scarcely conceive upon what principle it could be recalled. The deficiency being six pounds, we may indeed suppose the gentleman endeavoring to recollect whether there could have been a payment of this sum made in any irregular manner, that might have led to an omission or an error; but in the transactions of an extensive bank in a great commercial city, a payment of six pounds, at a distance of eight or nine months, could have made but a very faint impression. And, upon the whole, the case presents, perhaps, one of the most remarkable mental phenomena connected with this curious subject."

Extraordinary Phenomena.

A number of residents of Michigan went over to Sombra, C. W., in the early part of October, and commenced boring some fifteen or twenty feet from a creek, under the belief that oil would be found, and on the 17th of the month, when they had got down about fifty-seven feet, they struck a vein of gas.

On removing their auger, which was several feet in diameter, the gas rushed with great force from the aperture, and continued to throw up dry sand for an hour. It then ceased and the boring was resumed; but as soon as this was done, the gas again rushed up with such violence as to throw the drill—a piece of iron one and a half inches in diameter, eight feet long, and weighing fifty pounds—clear out of the hole, and it continued to discharge gravel, water and stones, some of the latter weighing twenty-five pounds, up into the air a distance of one hundred feet.

The stream widened out to the diameter of a barrel, after leaving the hole, and the quantity was such as to raise the creek considerably above the level, though it is here above twenty-five feet wide. After the flow subsided, the gas was fired and an explosion took place which shook the ground for half a mile, and then continued to send up a sheet of flame as high as the water had previously gone. This flame could be seen for miles, and was ultimately extinguished with great difficulty. It is thought that the oil spring, for such it has proved to be, will be one of the best in the county.

EARTHQUAKES.—The physical world appears to be as much disturbed as the political. Scarcely a foreign paper we take up but contains an account of a hurricane, or similar disorder of the usual calm of nature. Professor Ansted reckons the total number of earthquakes which have occurred in historic times to the year 1850, to be about 7,000. Of this number, only 750 occurred prior to the year 1500. During the three succeeding centuries, that is, from the beginning of the sixteenth to the eighteenth, 2,804 earthquakes are recorded, being four times as many as in all the preceding centuries. From 1800 to 1850, there occurred no less than 3,240, being at the rate of one a week; but only one out of forty of these was attended with serious consequences; this gives one earthquake in every eight months attended with accidents more or less fatal. In Europe, during the last ten years, 320 earthquakes have occurred, or about one in every nine days.

A RACE A WITH A BULL.

We find the following capital yarn in the November number of the Knickerbocker Magazine. It is more or less rich:

Some forty years ago, the members of a race course near Brownsville, on the Monongahela, published a notice of a race, one mile heats, on a particular day, for a purse of one hundred dollars, "free for any thing with four legs and hair on."

A man in the neighborhood named Hays had a bull that he was in the habit of riding to mill with his bag of corn, and he determined to enter him for the race. He said nothing about it to any one, but he rode him around the track a number of times, on several moonlight nights, until the bull had the hang of the ground pretty well, and would keep the right course. He rode with spurs, which the bull considered particularly disagreeable, so much so that he always bellowed when they were applied to his sides.

On the morning of the race, Hays came upon the ground on horseback—on his bull. Instead of a saddle, he had dried an ox-hide, the head part of which, with the horns still on, he had placed on the bull's rump. He carried a short tin horn in his hand. He rode to the judge's stand, and offered to enter his bull for the race; but the owners of the horses objected. Hays appealed to the terms of the notice, insisting that his bull had four legs and hair on, and therefore he had a right to enter him. After a good deal of swearing, the judges declared themselves compelled to decide that the bull had the right to run, and he was entered accordingly.

When the time for starting arrived, the bull and the horses took their places. The horse racers were out of humor at being bothered with the bull, and at the burlesque which they supposed was intended, but thought that it would be over as soon as the horses started.

When the signal was given, they did start. Hays gave a blast with his horn, and sunk his spurs into the side of the bull, who bounded off with a terrible bawl at no trifling speed, the dried ox-hide flapping up and down and rattling at every jump, making a combination of noises that had never been heard on a race course before. The horses all flew the track, every one seeming to be seized with a sudden determination to take the shortest cut to get out of the Redstone county, and none of them could be brought back in time to save their distance. The purse was given to Hays.

A general row ensued, but the fun of the thing put the crowd on the side of the bull.—The horsemen contended that they were swindled out of the purse, and if it had not been for Hays' horn and ox-hide, which he ought not to have been permitted to bring upon the ground, the thing would not have turned out as it did.

Upon this Hays told them that his bull could beat any of their horses any how, and if they would put up one hundred dollars against the purse he had won, he would take off the ox-hide and leave the tin horn, and run a fair race with them. His offer was accepted, and the money staked. They again took their places at the starting post, and the signal was given. Hays gave the bull another touch with his spur, and the bull gave a tremendous bellow. The horses remembering the dreadful sound, thought all the rest was coming as before.—Away they went again, in spite of all the exertions of their riders, while Hays galloped his bull around the track again, and won the money.

A Parrot at Prayers.

"A parrot belonging to some friends of mine was generally taken out of the room when the family assembled for prayers, for fear lest he might take it into his head to join irreverently in the responses. One evening, however, his presence happened to be unnoticed, and he was forgotten. For some time he maintained a decorous silence, but at length, instead of 'Amen,' out he came with 'cheer, boys, cheer.' On this the butler was directed to remove him, and had got as far as the door with him, when the bird, perhaps thinking that he had committed himself, and had better apologize, called out, 'Sorry I spoke.' The overpowering effect on the congregation may be more easily imagined than described. The parrot of a relation of mine also used, whenever he dropped anything he was eating, to say, 'Pick up Bobby's crust,' being doubtless prompted by the same train of associations as those which led another parrot, which I know well, invariably to say, 'Thank you,' whenever anything is given to him.

The following story is not a bad one, but all that I can say with regard to its authenticity, is, *si non e vero, e ben trovato*—If it be not true, it deserves to be so for the sake both of master and pupil: Some parrot-fanciers had agreed to meet in a year's time, when each was to show a bird for a prize, proficiency in talking being by common consent to be the great criterion of merit. On the day appointed all the rest came, each duly bringing his parrot; one only appeared without his. On being asked why he had not shown one according to the agreement, he said that he had tried to train one, but that he was such a stupid bird he was quite ashamed to bring him.—This excuse was held to be inadmissible. All the others insisted that, stupid or clever, he must be produced, and his master accordingly went off for and returned with him. No sooner was he introduced, than, looking round at the large assemblage of birds, he exclaimed, 'My G—, what a large lot of parrots!' The prize was immediately voted to him by acclamation."